

System Configuration Team Meeting Notes

June 15, 2006

1. Greetings and Introductions.

Today's System Configuration Team meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Kathy Ceballos at 503-230-5420.

2. Review of FY'07 Work Plans and Updated Spreadsheet.

John Kranda distributed copies of the most recent FY'07 CRFM worksheet, noting that the numbers have not really changed since the last SCT meeting. He noted that he has added a column showing the SCT average score for each line-item from FY'06. I've also added a section of inactive projects at the bottom of the list, which I didn't think the SCT was quite ready to get rid of completely, Kranda said.

As you're aware, Portland District sent out its work plans earlier this week, Kranda said. The projects I don't have work plans for are shaded in grey on the worksheet, Kranda said; the Walla Walla District server is currently down, so we won't have the Walla Walla District workplans until next week. On the spreadsheet, we've added two columns, he said – the Walla Walla District numbering system is tied to the database they use, and it's a little different from the numbering system used in Portland District. We have also added, as best we could, the one-pager IDs that correspond to that work item, Kranda said. In the future, I will find a way to get this onto the web, with links between the spreadsheet, the workplans and the one-pagers, he added.

You now have most of the Portland District workplans, Kranda said; we're working to get the rest of the Portland District workplans, and you'll have the Walla Walla District workplans by some time next week. For the purposes of scoring, we decided we would simply list these by dam, rather than priority, although the FY'06 scoring is also attached for reference. If the scoring column is blank, that means the project did not receive a score last year, or was not funded.

The group then went through the latest version of the FY'07 CRFM worksheet line by line, discussing the changes the Corps has made to each line-item since the last SCT meeting. It was noted that "JSAT" stands for "juvenile salmon acoustic telemetry." At the close of this exercise, Kranda noted that the FY'07 program totals about \$85

million, which is what the House has suggested as the FY'07 appropriation. That doesn't include any savings and slippage, however, so we'll still need to complete the prioritization process, Kranda said.

3. FY'07 CRFM Prioritization (continued).

Hevlin distributed copies of the SCT's prioritization process narrative, and the criteria and guidelines for prioritization. He thanked everyone for their hard work in developing these documents. The next step is that we need to set up times and dates for the two caucus meetings that will be needed for the federal parties and the salmon managers to develop their prioritizations for each line-item, said Hevlin. We need to get the scores of the eight agencies that will be scoring to John Kranda in advance of the July 20 SCT meeting; that means we need to get the scores to John by no later than July 18, Hevlin said. Kranda said he will generate scoring sheets for the use of the caucuses. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the state and tribal caucus will meet the morning of July 13. The federal caucus will meet on the afternoon of July 12. Hevlin noted that anyone who wishes to attend either meeting is welcome to do so, but only one vote will count.

4. Discussion of SCT Presentation to Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council in August.

Hevlin noted that the Council has requested a presentation on the SCT prioritization process and criteria at its August meeting. It was agreed that Hevlin, Jim Ruff and Kranda will provide this presentation, which will occur on August 15 in Spokane. They will also want some information on our draft rankings, as well as the FY'07 funding situation, Ruff noted. We'll develop a written executive summary for distribution at the Council meeting, laying out the funding situation at each dam, Hevlin said. We'll only have half an hour, so a couple of pie charts would probably be useful, Ruff suggested.

5. Update on Development of an Active/Passive Life-Cycle Tag.

This is also known as the Holy Grail, or HG tag, said Hevlin; we wanted to put this discussion on the SCT agenda to ensure that there is SCT support for this technology so we can push its development along. Gary Fredricks noted that there was a recent meeting on tag technology development; the purpose of this technology is to address latent mortality post-Bonneville, system survival and passage survival, as well as adult returns, rather than trying to address that piece-by-piece, as we're doing currently, he said.

At the meeting, we talked about what is going on now, in terms of tag development, Fredricks said; Digital Angel has been asked to look into what may be possible, in terms of a tag that would be active as the fish pass the dams, but passive during the rest of the life-cycle. It looks as though that may be very difficult to do, Fredricks said. We also talked about standard PIT-tags, and the possibility of

developing readers that will work in the spillways, he explained, based on the success of the corner collector detection array. We also talked about the potential of duplex tags, he added.

What we're talking about is a tagging system that would supercede everything we're currently using, that would be cheap enough to be placed in millions of fish each year, Fredricks said. We would tag both hatchery fish and index groups of wild fish. It doesn't mean you would get all of the information you need in a year, but over a series of years, this type of technology would tremendously improve our current knowledge of fish movement and survival to adulthood. We're also looking into possible ways to recharge or re-energize tags whose batteries have died, potentially using the fish's body movement. The idea is to think big, Fredricks said; the potential benefits are huge. Personally, I think we should put as much money into this technology as we can, but we have to be sure those efforts are well-coordinated throughout the region.

We see the need for a new group – a steering committee that can pull all of the available information about tagging together, Fredricks continued. The idea is to form a committee under one of the established groups – SCT or FFDRWG, for example – with the idea of coordinating all of the tagging and tag development activities in the region, and functioning as a clearinghouse for information on what everyone is doing. The idea is to make sure everyone is working together, rather than at odds, Fredricks said.

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to this topic. Ultimately, Hevlin said his idea is to designate an SCT subcommittee to coordinate the tag development process. Kim Fodrea suggested that it might make more sense to draw such a subcommittee from SRWG or FFDRWG, rather than SCT, to avoid complaints and criticism. After a few minutes of discussion, it was agreed to draw the membership of the tagging “focus group” from the SCT, and to develop a list of the specific goals and tasks the group will undertake. Fredricks, Marvin Shuttters, Fodrea, Ruff, Russ Kiefer and Mike Langeslay agreed to participate in this subgroup, which will meet after the SCT.

6. FFDRWG and SRWG Updates.

Langeslay distributed a written description of recent Portland District FFDRWG activities. July 28 is the next meeting of this group; the next Portland District SRWG meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on June 29. An agency model trip to look at The Dalles bathymetry is scheduled for July 18.

Shuttters said the next Walla Walla District FFDRWG will be held July 26-27.

7. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next System Configuration Team meeting was scheduled for July 20, 2006. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.